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## CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2008 ANNUAL CRIME REPORT INCLUDING NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUSINESS DISTRICT PROFILES



**Produced by the  
Cambridge Police  
Crime Analysis Unit:**

**Rachel Correia**  
Crime Analysis Intern

**Rebecca Burbank  
Meghan McKenney**  
Crime Analysts

**Richard E. Sevieri**  
Strategic Analysis Coordinator

**Ty Mekonnen**  
Information Systems Specialist

**Michael DeSantis**  
Information Systems Specialist

**Stephen Maywalt**  
Information Systems Manager

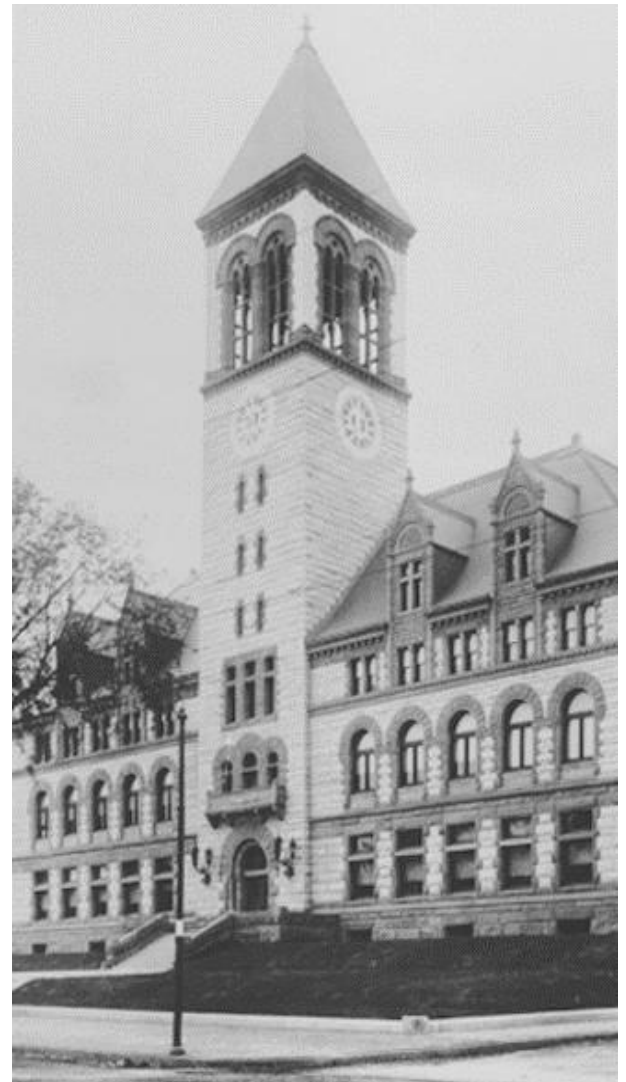
**Sergeant Frederic Riley**  
Crime Analysis Unit Supervisor

**Deputy Steven Williams**  
Deputy Superintendent of Training,  
Technical and Administration

**Superintendent David Degou**  
Superintendent of Support Services

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AT A GLANCE

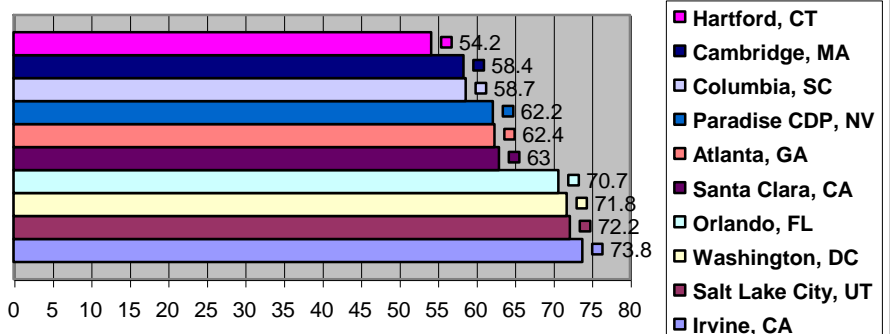
<b>Established:</b>	1636 (town); 1846 (city)
<b>Government:</b>	Council-Manager
<b>City Manager:</b>	Robert W. Healy
<b>City Budget:</b>	\$434,126,990 (FY08/09)
<b>City Employees:</b>	2,857 (including schools)
<b>Area:</b>	7.13 square miles total 6.43 square miles land
<b>Population:</b>	101,355 (2000 Census)
<b>Households:</b>	38,336 (2000 Census)
<b>Police Officer/Population Ratio:</b>	1:373
<b>Population Density:</b>	15,763 per square mile
<b>Registered Voters:</b>	39,293
<b>Total Registered Auto Mobiles:</b>	56,282 (January 2002)
<b>Total Residential Housing Units:</b>	44,725, 41.3% families (2000)
<b>Ownership Rate:</b>	34%
<b>Median Household Income:</b>	\$47,979 (1999)
<b>Median Family Income:</b>	\$59,423 (1999)
<b>Average Family Income:</b>	\$90,791 (1999)
<b>Unemployment Rate:</b>	4.3% (March 2005)
<b>Average Single-Family Home:</b>	\$750,000 (2008)
<b>Property Tax Rate per Thousand:</b>	9.21 residential, 23.39 commercial
<b>School Enrollment 2006:</b>	5,781
<b>Colleges and Universities:</b>	9
<b>Hospitals:</b>	5



## Top Ten Employers: (2008)

- 1) Harvard (11,315)
- 2) MIT (7,820)
- 3) City of Cambridge (2,820)
- 4) Mt Auburn Hospital (1,969)
- 5) Novartis (1,629)
- 6) Biogen (1,596)
- 7) Cambridge Health Alliance (1,413)
- 8) Genzyme (1,391)
- 9) Federal Government (1,286)
- 10) Draper (1,175)

**Top 10 Cities for % Increase of Daytime Population from Commuting  
For Cities over 100,000 in Population**



In a publication by the U.S. Census Department, Cambridge was reported to rank 9<sup>th</sup>, with a 58.4% increase of daytime commuters in 2007.

Cambridge Age Structure		
Age	2000 Population	Percentage
0-4	4,125	4.1%
5-17	9,322	9.2%
18- 24	21,472	21.1%
25-34	25,202	24.9%
35-44	13,942	13.8%
45-64	18,010	17.8%
65+	9282	9.1%

Population by race			
	1980	1990	2000
White	79.5%	71.6%	68%
Black	10.6%	12.7%	12%
Asian	3.8%	8.4%	12%
Hispanic	4.8%	6.8%	7%
Native American	.2%	.3%	-
Other	1.2%	.4%	1%

## CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

<b>Organized:</b>	1859
<b>Sworn Officers:</b>	272
<b>Civilian Personnel:</b>	37
<b>Commissioner:</b>	Robert C. Haas
<b>Headquarters:</b>	125 Sixth Street Cambridge, MA 02142
<b>Budget (FY 08):</b>	\$35,524,040
<b>Rank Structure:</b>	Commissioner Superintendent Deputy Superintendent Lieutenant Sergeant Patrol Officer
<b>Marked Patrol Vehicles:</b>	36
<b>Unmarked Patrol Vehicles:</b>	34
<b>Motorcycles:</b>	14
<b>Bicycles:</b>	12
<b>Special Vehicles</b>	4
<b>2008 Total Calls for Service:</b>	104,926
<b>2008 Total Index Crimes:</b>	3,968



## CRIME ANALYSIS IN CAMBRIDGE

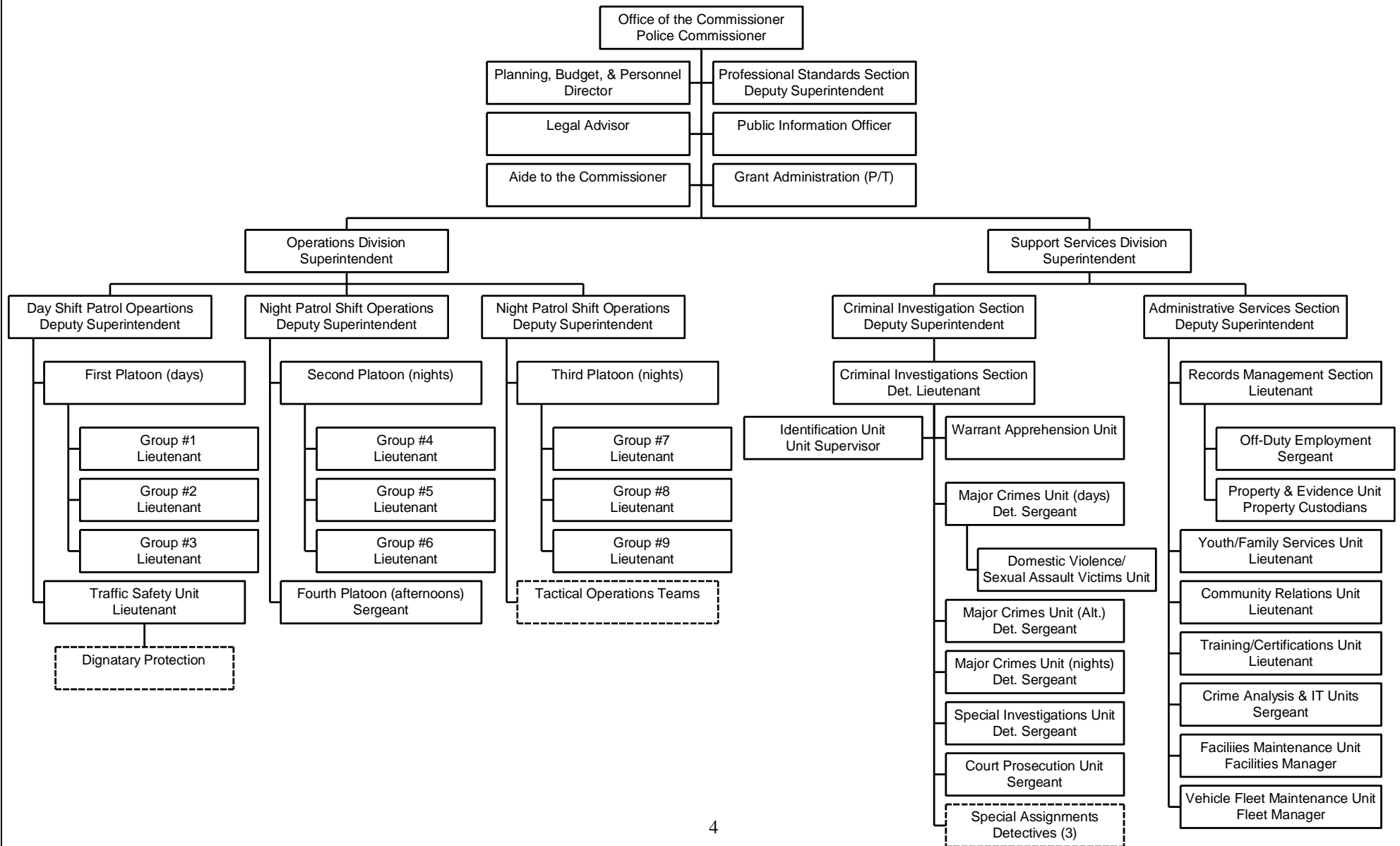
**Crime Analysis** is the process of turning crime data into information, and then turning that information into knowledge about crime and safety in a particular community. While it is a growing field across this country and internationally, Cambridge has had a Crime Analysis Unit in operation for over 30 years.

The function of the Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) is to support the daily operations of the Police Department by collecting, managing, and analyzing crime, calls for service, and other data. The CAU also works together with analysts from neighboring departments to address cross-jurisdictional patterns.

By making timely observations of emerging crime patterns, hot spots, and other crime problems, the Cambridge Crime Analysis Unit ultimately aims to assist the Department in its criminal apprehension and crime reduction strategies.

# CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRANSITIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Table of Organization - Phase II



## **A MESSAGE FROM POLICE COMMISSIONER ROBERT C. HAAS**

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For over fifteen years, the Cambridge Police Department has developed an annual report in an effort to keep the general public informed of the prior year's crime statistics. It is my pleasure to present the Cambridge Police Department's Annual Crime Report for 2008. The report attempts to give citizens a summary of the crimes that took place over the past calendar year and provides a context in which to view the crime by distinguishing patterns, trends, and causative factors of the crime. The report is designed to provide a better understanding of what we have seen in past crime patterns and how we are tracking them. Information is also provided on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

The Annual Crime Report is an important bi-product of how the Cambridge Police Department uses crime data internally to deploy our police resources throughout the city and how we think about what tactics are needed to offset any noticeable patterns or trends. The police department has been diligent about collecting, analyzing, and applying this information towards our overall operations. We know that crime is seasonal and we also know that it does not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Many of the crime patterns we see are also seen in other communities throughout the region. Our greatest challenge is how to counterbalance and reduce those patterns.

During the past year, the police department has worked hard to improve its deployment strategies, and through the collective efforts of the entire membership of the department, we have enhanced the modality of policing within the city. Through the use of our crime data and calls for service, we took a diverse approach of deploying more resources in a variety of unique tactics.

In December 2007, the Cambridge Police Department established a newly formed Youth/Family Services Unit. This unit is comprised of officers who had traditionally worked in the schools as School Resource Officers, and Detectives who work specifically with youthful offenders. Unlike prior years, the School Resource Officers are engaging students both within the school environment and at after-school activities. Their responsibilities have been greatly expanded so that they have much greater latitude in working with kids and their families when they start experiencing problems. The primary mission of the School Resource Officers is to serve as case managers whereby they take a more active role in working with youths and their respective families through other service providers, community-based services, and after-school activities. The Juvenile Detectives on the other hand work with those youth who have been referred for court action. The primary goal of both sets of officers is to prevent future problems and redirect our youth in a positive direction whenever possible.

As we continue to look for ways to increase the presence of police officers throughout the city, we rely heavily on our walking officers and officers on bicycles during the course of the warmer months. For instance, over the past couple of summers we have expanded the responsibilities of the bicycle officers. Through these officers, we have established a better path of communication to effectively connect with residents and with those who operate businesses, work, and attend school in the City of Cambridge. We have been exploring different methods that are designed to enlist your aid in actively preventing and reducing crime within each of the neighborhoods. We leveraged our newly restructured website, incorporating regular updates on noticeable patterns and trends.

We have been working hard to build strong partnerships among the innumerable resources that already exist in the city. We also strive to form and solidify partnerships with the surrounding communities that often experience the trans-jurisdictional crimes that have long taken advantage of our boundaries. In addition, we are always looking for ways to work closely with our youngsters and identify a means of creating positive and healthy interactions that are designed to keep them safe and help them avoid making bad choices.

I would encourage you to routinely visit our website at <http://www.cambridgepolice.org> to keep abreast of crime patterns, many of which are preventable. I also strongly suggest that you become an active



participant in how we reduce the opportunities for crime. As a resident or visitor of Cambridge, you play a very powerful role in offsetting those opportunities by staying informed and reporting suspicious activity.

I am proud to serve with the men and women of the Cambridge Police Department who have sworn to serve and protect you. I look forward to being a helpful resource and partner as we strive to continue to make the City of Cambridge a unique and special place to live, work, visit, and study.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

## **F O R E W O R D**

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The Cambridge Police Department's 2008 Annual Crime Report is an attempt to provide detailed information so that citizens can make informed decisions about crime and safety in their neighborhoods. The more information made available to the public, the better the input will be in aiding the Police response to crime.

The Annual Report offers a comprehensive analysis of the crimes reported by the Cambridge Police Department to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program has been collecting national crime statistics from local police departments since 1930. Based on seriousness and frequency, police departments are required to report their statistics on seven crimes which comprise the UCR Crime Index: murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. In 2007, The Cambridge Police Department initiated the submission of crimes into the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The general concepts, such as jurisdictional rules, of collecting and reporting UCR data are the same in NIBRS. The difference in the programs is that NIBRS captures much greater detail on each crime than the summary-based UCR program. Another difference in the programs is that agencies submit UCR data in written documents, where as NIBRS data are submitted electronically.

The problem for the public, as well as for the police, is that UCR statistics alone are of little use to patrol deployment and offer little to citizens interested in reducing their risks. The true picture of crime and disorder in a city is seldom conveyed to the public through simple statistics. Crimes are complex events, and these complexities encompass many dimensions. It is our endeavor in this report to unravel the web of factors that comprise the crime rate.

The publication of detailed neighborhood crime statistics, patterns, and trends gives Cantabridgians a realistic view of their risks of victimization. The Neighborhood and Business District sections within the Annual Crime Report are designed to help residents, business owners, and visitors have a fuller understanding of crime problems in their areas.

This report outlines three distinctions that make up criminal incidents: (1) whether offenses are committed against strangers or against relatives and acquaintances; (2) the motivation of the criminals—drugs, revenge, or intimidation are but a few of the factors that motivate both novice and career criminals; and (3) when and where crimes occur, focusing on where the hotspots are and the best time frames for the majority of the incidents. Outlining these factors is imperative to understanding the anatomy of crime in Cambridge, and to developing appropriate responses.

The rise and fall of the crime rate will always be with us. To hold that tide in check, it will take a partnership comprised of not just the Police and citizens, but also every city agency, the business community, public service providers, and church leaders. The goal of the Annual Report is to provide this partnership with the knowledge to ensure the desired quality of life in all the neighborhoods of the City.

*Cambridge Police Department Crime Analysis Unit*

# 2008 CRIME INDEX

The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to police. The offenses included are the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and auto theft. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics.

Crime	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007-2008 % Change
<b>Murder</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	Inc.*
<b>Rape</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	+6%
Stranger	3	2	1	2	Inc.
Non-Stranger	11	9	15	15	No Change
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>177</b>	+10%
Commercial	73	38	41	36	-12%
Street	166	170	120	141	+18%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>274</b>	+13%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>469</b>	+12%
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>467</b>	-28%
Commercial	133	189	134	76	-43%
Residential	490	496	519	391	-25%
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>2,788</b>	-2%
from Building	539	386	418	417	No Change
from Motor Vehicle	615	754	1234	1053	-15%
from Person	343	337	344	357	+4%
of Bicycle	241	204	228	277	+21%
Shoplifting	403	342	349	352	+1%
from Residence	175	246	162	214	+32%
of License Plate	42	30	37	65	+76%
of Services	19	21	22	26	+18%
Miscellaneous	19	57	44	27	-39%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>244</b>	No Change
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>3,499</b>	-6%
<b>Crime Index Total</b>	<b>3,814</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>3,968</b>	-5%

\* Note: Inc = percentages are not calculated for numbers so small so as to prevent a statistically misleading percentage

# CAMBRIDGE UNIFORM CRIME REPORT STATISTICS 1989-2008\*

Crime	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Avg. 1989-1998	Avg. 1999-2008	Avg. 1989-2008	% Change 2007-2008**	% Change 1999-2008**
<b>Murder</b>	7	3	5	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	6	3	0	3	2	0	1	3	2	2	Inc	Inc
<b>Rape</b>	25	29	38	33	30	28	35	34	24	25	15	11	15	10	7	10	14	11	16	17	30	13	21	6%	13%
<b>Robbery</b>	460	431	399	286	253	276	295	227	176	208	165	186	181	195	229	245	239	208	161	177	301	199	250	10%	7%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	365	614	567	551	643	473	463	381	370	369	348	322	272	284	271	248	244	237	243	274	480	274	377	13%	-21%
<b>Burglary</b>	1,621	1,470	1,098	866	929	774	953	791	596	695	567	552	688	720	651	724	623	685	653	467	979	633	806	-28%	-18%
<b>Larceny/Theft</b>	3,692	3,136	3,363	3,326	3,563	3,351	3,313	2,973	2,779	2,753	2,819	2,820	2,740	2,764	2,389	2,654	2,396	2,377	2,838	2,788	3,225	2,659	2,942	-2%	-1%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	1,170	1,353	1,012	887	964	761	558	544	483	397	431	498	523	425	419	438	295	233	244	244	813	375	594	0%	-43%
<b>Total Violent</b>	857	1,077	1,009	872	928	778	796	643	572	604	530	520	469	495	510	503	500	458	420	469	814	487	651	12%	-12%
<b>Total Property</b>	6,483	5,959	5,473	5,079	5,456	5,086	4,824	4,308	3,858	3,845	3,817	3,870	3,951	3,909	3,459	3,816	3,314	3,295	3,735	3,499	5,037	3,667	4,352	-6%	-8%
<b>Total</b>	7,340	7,036	6,482	5,951	6,384	5,664	5,620	4,951	4,430	4,449	4,347	4,390	4,420	4,404	3,969	4,319	3,814	3,753	4,155	3,968	5,831	4,154	4,992	-5%	-9%

\* Note: Inc = percentages are not calculated for numbers so small so as to prevent a statistically misleading percentage.

\*The Cambridge Police Department voluntarily submits Uniform Crime Report statistics to the FBI for national comparison. See <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm> for more information.

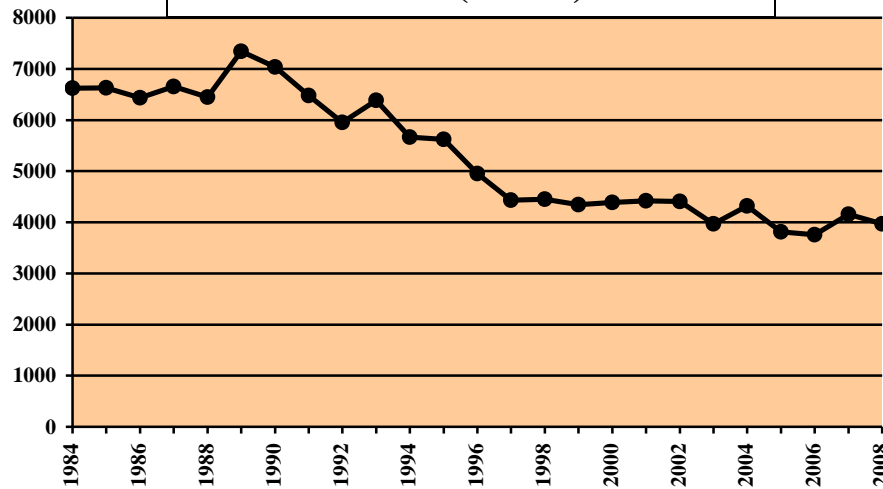
\*\*Percent changes are rounded to the nearest whole number. A 0% change means that there was less than a .5% increase or decrease.

**Please Note: Due to reclassification year to year, final numbers are subject to change.**



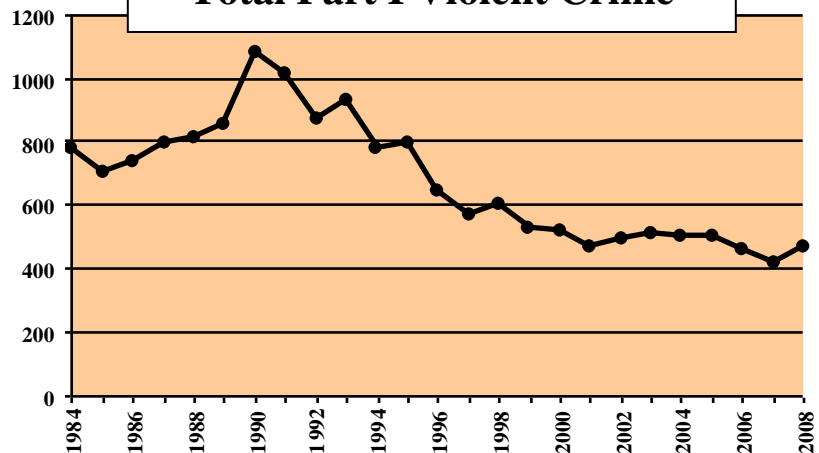
# 25-YEAR STATISTICAL TRENDS

## Total Part I (Index) Crime



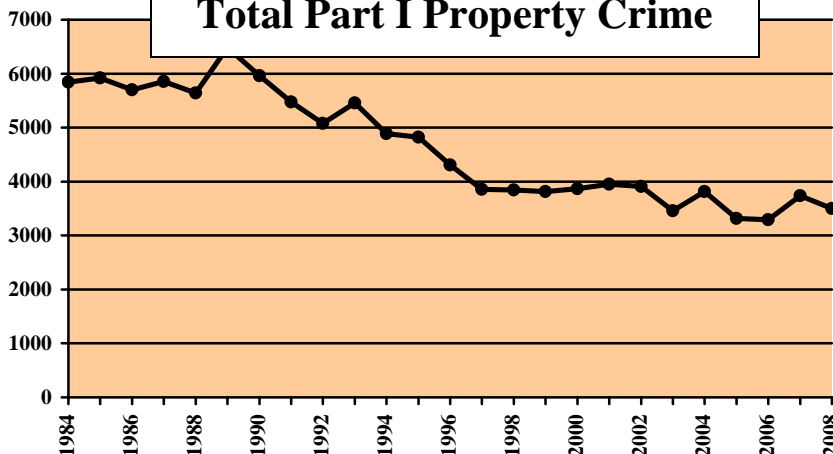
Cambridge reported its 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest crime total in over 40 years in 2008. The total crime index has fallen 40% since 1984. Serious crime numbers have been on a steady decline since the late 1970s, with the exception of spikes at the turn of two decades. These spikes were caused by a sharp increase in property crimes in 1980 and a sharp increase in violent crimes in 1990. After 1997, the crime rate leveled off for approximately six years, until it dropped by 10% in 2003. Since 2003, crime totals have averaged about 4000 crimes a year, with fluctuations of around 300 crimes above and below this amount.

## Total Part I Violent Crime



Violent crime totals include the crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and assault. Totals were fairly unsteady in the 1980s. The late years of the decade were marked by a great increase in incidents—reflective of the nation's epidemic of gang and drug violence combined with greater reporting of domestic assaults. Since 1990, violent crime totals have been steadily declining, but were marked by small spikes every other year or so in the 1990's. In 2007, the lowest violent crime total in the past 25 years was reported, which could be attributed to a large decrease in street robberies. There was an upsurge in 2008, which is a result of slight increases in all violent crimes except commercial robberies.

## Total Part I Property Crime



Property crime totals include burglary, larceny, and auto theft. Property crime usually accounts for 80-90% of the Part I total, which explains why the graph to the left mirrors the graph at the top so closely. Totals have fallen 40% since 1984. Burglary and auto theft have experienced significant decreases over the past two decades, but larceny (common theft) has remained fairly steady. After 1997, property crime rates leveled off for approximately six years, until they dropped 12% in 2003. An increase in 2004 was followed by a decrease of 14% over the next two years, making 2006 totals the lowest in over 40 years. The spike in property crime in 2007 can be attributed to an increase in both larceny and auto theft. In 2008 there was a 6% decrease overall, which is largely due to a 28% reduction in burglary and a 15% decrease in larcenies from motor vehicles.

# 2008 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## **IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE 2008 INDEX TOTAL**

*The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to police. The offenses included are the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and auto theft. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics. In 2007, the Cambridge Police converted from UCR submission to entering crime data electronically in to the National Incident Based Reporting System.*

The 3,968 serious crimes recorded in Cambridge in 2008 represent the third lowest total of index crimes in the past 40 years. There were 187 fewer index crimes recorded in Cambridge in 2008 than in 2007, which translates to a 5% decrease in serious crime. The majority of this decrease can be traced to the 28% drop in burglaries and 15% drop in larcenies from motor vehicles in Cambridge in 2008. After recording two consecutive years of declines in violent crime, which consists of the combined total of murders, rapes, robberies and assaults, the City recorded a 12% increase in 2008. A large percentage of the increase in violent crime can be attributed to a sudden surge of 28% in the total of domestic aggravated assaults. Over the past 25 years, the serious crime total in Cambridge has fallen over 40%.

## **MURDER:**

- The first murder in Cambridge in over two years occurred in late June of 2008. The 26-month interval between homicides was the longest that the City has experienced in over 50 years. In the 2008 incident, a 42-year-old resident of East Cambridge was allegedly stabbed by an acquaintance in the basement of an Elm Street residence. The acquaintance was arrested the following day in Watertown.
- Murders in Cambridge most often fall into three distinct scenarios: domestic situations, drug or gang related altercations, and homeless against homeless street fights.
- Nationally, cities of 100,000 people average 10 murders per year.
- Since 1990, Cambridge has averaged two murders per year, which is a decrease from the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989 when the average was slightly less than five per year.
- Fourteen of the sixteen murders in Cambridge since 2000 have been cleared by an arrest of the perpetrator.

## **RAPE**

- Cambridge reported 17 rapes in 2008, slightly above the 10-year average of 12 rapes per year.
- Fourteen of the seventeen rapes were completed, and three were categorized as attempts.
- In 12 of the rapes in 2008, the victim had a prior acquaintance with the perpetrator. An additional three incidents were classified as domestic in nature.
- Since 1980, there has only been one stranger-to-stranger "street" rape pattern in Cambridge: the "Rainy Day Rapist" who preyed on victims in the Fresh Pond area on rainy days in 1981.

## **ROBBERY**

- Over a four-year span from 2001 to 2004, citywide robbery totals slowly increased. The trend reversed in 2005 and continued to decline till 2007 when a 20-year low for robberies was registered. In 2008, there was an overall increase of 10%. Further analysis of robbery in 2008 indicates that commercial robbery decreased by 12% and street robbery increased 18%.
- Cambridge averaged over 100 commercial robberies annually between 1970 and 1990. Throughout the 1990s, the number of commercial robberies decreased dramatically to 45 per annum. From 2000 to 2005, the numbers slowly increased, until 2006, when a decline of 50% was recorded. Commercial robberies remained relatively low and continued to decrease in 2008.
- Banks were the most common target of commercial robberies in 2008, accounting for 42% of the incidents. The main time frame for bank robberies in 2008 was between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The first quarter of 2008 was plagued with a series of bank robbery patterns throughout Cambridge and Greater Boston communities.
- Street robberies increased by 18% in 2008, rising from 120 incidents to 141.

- The neighborhood that suffered the highest number of street robberies in 2008 was North Cambridge, with 22 incidents accounting for 16% of the citywide total. East Cambridge and Area 4 experienced the second highest number of street robberies with 20 incidents each.
- The majority of the street robberies throughout the city occurred between 7:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. These are common times for street robberies to be reported because people can become targets when they are walking alone late at night, distracted or intoxicated.
- Part of the increase in street robberies can be linked to the surge in the theft of iPods and Sidekick cell phones by juveniles from their peers.

### **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**

- Aggravated assaults increased by 13% in Cambridge in 2008. The rise in assaults was fueled by a surge in domestic related incidents.
- Analysis of the past twenty years reveals that aggravated assault reached its peak in the early 1990s. Between 1984 and 1989, Cambridge recorded about 350 incidents per year. In 1990, it jumped an unprecedented 41% to 614 incidents. From its zenith in 1993 of 643 assaults, this target crime fell into a steady decline for the next ten years. Over the past five years, aggravated assaults have leveled off at 250 incidents per year.
- Approximately 7% of the aggravated assaults in Cambridge in 2008 resulted in serious to life threatening injuries. Roughly 31% of the 274 incidents in 2008 produced no injury, as the victim was merely threatened with the use of a weapon.
- Nearly one-third of the aggravated assaults in 2008 were domestic incidents. Over the past five years, the rate of domestic incidents has ranged from a quarter to a third of all assaults.
- The Riverside business district was the top area for bar and alcohol related assaults in 2008. This type of activity can be traced to the high density of foot traffic around bars and restaurants in the Mass Ave corridor of Central and Harvard Squares.

### **BURGLARY**

- In 2008, the City reported its lowest burglary rate in over 40 years. There were 128 fewer residential burglaries in Cambridge in 2008 and commercial breaks declined by 58 incidents. When combining the two totals, they account for a 28% reduction in burglary from 2007 to 2008.
- There was a 43% decline in commercial breaks in Cambridge when compared with the 2007 total for this target crime. Over the past five years, commercial breaks have averaged 134 incidents per year; this translates to a 16% decline from the previous five years.
- Both Area 4 and Cambridgeport registered decreases of over 40% for housebreaks in 2008. Further analysis indicates that the majority of this reduction can be traced to the eradication of patterns that had afflicted these neighborhoods in 2007.
- In a typical year, 5% to 10% of all housebreaks in Cambridge are perpetrated by family, friends, common tenants, houseguests, and other acquaintances.

### **AUTO THEFT**

- The number of vehicles stolen in Cambridge has remained the same for the past two years with 244 car thefts in both 2007 and 2008.
- Hondas continue to be the most commonly stolen automobiles, constituting 30% of the auto thefts in 2008. Toyotas and Dodges came in second and third place, respectively. This information is consistent with historical and national trends.
- The most targeted model in 2008 was the Honda Civic, followed by the Toyota Camry and the Honda Accord.
- Approximately 77% of the cars reported stolen in 2008 have been recovered to date. The majority of the recovered cars were located throughout Cambridge and Boston, and the majority of the damage to the recovered vehicles was to the ignition and car body.

### **CITYWIDE SHOOTING VICTIMS IN 2008**

- There were five shootings in 2008 producing four victims with gunshot wounds. A Cambridge teen was shot in two different incidents last year. Two of the shootings were in North Cambridge, one in Area 4, one in Inman/Harrington, and one in Central Square.
- All four of the gunshot victims were males between the ages of 18 and 26.
- For the second consecutive year, the number of shootings has decreased. There were twelve shootings with thirteen victims in 2006 and seven shootings with nine victims in 2007.
- Arrests were made in three of the shootings; the other two incidents remain under investigation.

# NATIONAL/REGIONAL CRIME COMPARISON

\*Note that the following tables are based on information from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports and the latest available data available for comparison was from 2007.\*

## 2007 CRIMES IN CITIES OF 94,000-106,000 RESIDENTS, NATIONWIDE

<i>City</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Assault</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>Auto Theft</i>	<i>Total</i>
Albany, NY	3	45	376	704	965	2,998	286	5,377
Allentown, PA	20	20	552	277	1,335	3,462	536	6,202
Arvada, CO	6	29	46	136	423	1,929	238	2,807
Athens-Clarke County, GA	7	38	142	248	1,306	3,836	351	5,928
Berkeley, CA	5	24	431	179	1,172	4,949	995	7,755
Burbank, CA	3	14	98	159	487	1,840	440	3,041
<b>Cambridge, MA</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4,155</b>
Cary, NC	1	11	58	64	448	1,584	88	2,254
Charleston, SC	15	56	269	569	746	3,056	444	5,155
Compton, CA	37	42	466	1,078	636	1,034	1,135	4,428
Daly City, CA	0	15	186	92	291	1,410	410	2,404
Denton, TX	2	76	84	204	718	2,614	173	3,871
Erie, PA	3	75	264	201	831	2,062	175	3,611
Everett, WA	7	61	209	287	1,405	5,456	1,878	9,303
Fairfield, CA	7	36	221	368	696	2,988	668	4,984
Gary, IN	71	57	324	217	1,746	2,062	859	5,336
Green Bay, WI	2	67	89	458	565	2,094	184	3,459
Gresham, OR	1	74	170	225	627	2,671	1,034	4,802
Livonia, MI	1	27	31	94	421	1,730	267	2,571
Lowell, MA	3	44	241	587	953	1,891	482	4,201
Macon, GA	22	43	302	365	1,979	5,166	852	8,729
Miami Gardens, FL	24	61	686	1,134	1,668	4,904	1,034	9,511
Miramar, FL	7	26	202	363	1,038	2,274	500	4,410
Mission Viejo, CA	0	1	28	53	205	1,007	101	1,395
Odessa, TX	6	7	92	424	870	3,144	288	4,831
Portsmouth, VA	17	36	326	425	1,101	3,646	302	5,853
Pueblo, CO	6	43	206	470	1,499	4,526	588	7,338
Richardson, TX	2	22	136	130	793	2,084	230	3,397
Richmond, CA	47	31	492	650	1,265	1,933	2,309	6,727
Sandy, UT	1	27	33	128	534	2,519	264	3,506
Santa Clara, CA	3	32	73	123	553	2,420	457	3,661
South Gate, CA	9	17	321	230	456	1,090	1,375	3,498
Vacaville, CA	5	26	83	149	289	1,473	274	2,299
Ventura, CA	1	27	151	189	746	2,733	348	4,195
Wichita Falls, TX	4	31	228	313	1,540	4,797	498	7,411
Wilmington, NC	10	58	345	408	1,637	3,613	643	6,714
Woodbridge Township, NJ	1	14	99	120	439	2,180	260	3,113
<b>Average</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>4,817</b>
<b>Cambridge, MA</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4,155</b>

Among similarly sized cities in 2007, Cambridge ranked below the nationwide *average* for all of the index crimes, with the exception of Larcenies. Overall, the total number of serious crimes in Cambridge ranked roughly 14% below the national average of similarly sized cities (see chart above). Again, statistics for 2007 are the latest available from cities of similar size to Cambridge for comparative analysis.

### How Cambridge Compares Nationally in 2007 (to cities selected in chart above):

- ↓ **Murder:** 100% lower than the national average per 100,000 inhabitants.
- ↓ **Rape:** 56% lower than the national average per 100,000 inhabitants, continuing the downward trend, which began in 1998.
- ↓ **Robbery:** 27% lower than the national average per 100,000 inhabitants.
- ↓ **Assault:** 25% below the national average per 100,000 inhabitants.
- ↓ **Burglary:** 27% below the national average per 100,000 inhabitants, continuing the downward trend, which began in the early 1980s.
- ↑ **Larceny:** 3% above the national average. Larceny typically accounts for the highest percentage of index crimes in Cambridge but traditionally reports lower numbers than the national average.
- ↓ **Auto Theft:** 57% below the national average per 100,000 inhabitants.

### 2007 TOTAL NUMBER AND RATE OF CRIMES IN SELECT MASSACHUSETTS CITIES AND TOWNS

	<i>Population</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Rape</i>	<i>Robbery</i>	<i>Assault</i>	<i>Burglary</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>Auto Theft</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total Rate*</i>
Medford	55,706	3	4	42	21	240	1,210	106	1,626	2,919
Brockton <sup>1</sup>	94,180	11	42	199	N/A	695	2,163	463	3,573	3,794
Lynn	87,817	8	45	192	686	1,105	1,202	390	3,628	4,131
Chicopee	54,414	0	32	52	221	474	1,055	206	2,040	3,749
Lawrence	70,462	4	15	128	359	451	817	408	2,182	3,097
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>101,161</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>4,107</b>
Lowell	102,918	3	44	241	587	953	1,891	482	4,201	4,082
New Bedford	92,373	2	40	286	765	900	1,859	393	4,245	4,595
Haverhill	60,308	0	13	81	271	720	626	206	1,917	3,179
Somerville	74,156	1	17	119	152	436	1,533	283	2,541	3,427
Framingham	64,482	0	3	29	75	211	1,018	151	1,487	2,306
Quincy	91,382	2	16	70	165	589	1,147	141	2,130	2,331
Brookline	54,976	0	1	36	92	161	809	38	1,137	2,068
Waltham	59,425	0	11	19	95	172	594	54	945	1,590
Newton	82,731	0	8	13	57	184	1079	43	1,384	1,673
Average	76,433	2	20	111	271	530	1,323	241	2,479	3,244
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>101,161</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>4,107</b>

\*Rate is calculated per 100,000 residents.

\*Statistics for 2007 for select Massachusetts cities are the latest available for comparative analysis with Cambridge.

<sup>1</sup> Note that the 2007 assault statistic for the City of Brockton was unavailable.

There were approximately 4,107 crimes per 100,000 residents in Cambridge in 2007. Note that this number does not reflect the increased daytime population, which exceeds 150,000 people on any given day.

# FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CRIME

Throughout the 2008 Annual Report, the Department tries to place statistics in context—to explain *why* crime occurs in a particular area, instead of just where and how often. It is impossible, however, to analyze every crime factor within the pages of this report. As a general rule, readers should consider the following factors when gauging the relative safety of any city, neighborhood, or business district. The FBI, in its Uniform Crime Reports, provides most of these factors:

Factor	General Effect	Status in Cambridge	Effects in Cambridge
<b>Residential Population &amp; Population Density</b>	High population leads to higher residential crime rate (residential burglaries, larcenies from motor vehicles, domestic assaults, auto theft). High population <i>density</i> also leads to a higher residential crime rate.	Population of about 101,000; Very high density (about 15,000 per square mile)	Higher residential crime rate than cities of fewer than 100,000 Higher residential crime rate in densely populated neighborhoods of Mid-Cambridge, North Cambridge, Cambridgeport Low residential crime rate in sparsely populated areas of Cambridge Highlands, Strawberry Hill, Agassiz
<b>Commerical &amp; Educational Population, number &amp; type of commercial establishments and educational institutions</b>	High commercial population leads to more “business” crimes (commercial burglaries, shoplifting, larcenies from buildings, forgery) and to more crimes against the person often committed in commercial areas (larcenies from the person, larcenies from motor vehicles, larcenies of bicycles, street robbery, auto theft)	Very high commercial population (many large businesses, shopping areas in Cambridge) and very high educational population (M.I.T. and Harvard).	High overall larceny rate High larceny rate in highly-populated commercial areas of East Cambridge, Harvard Square, Central Square, Porter Square, Fresh Pond Mall High auto theft rate in East Cambridge, MIT Area Low larceny, auto theft rate in Agassiz, Strawberry Hill, West Cambridge
<b>Age composition of population</b>	A higher population in the “at risk” age of 15–24 leads to a higher crime rate.	21 percent of the citizens of Cambridge are in the “at risk” population. This number is influenced by the high student population.	Agassiz, MIT, and Riverside have the largest percentage of people in the “at risk” ages, but most of them are college students, which somewhat decreases their chances of involvement in criminal activity. Consequently, Agassiz, MIT, and Riverside do not have higher than average crime rates. However, neighborhoods with the lowest numbers of “at risk” ages—West Cambridge, Cambridge Highlands, and Strawberry Hill— <i>do</i> experience smaller amounts of crime.
<b>Stability of Population</b>	Stable, close-knit populations have a lower overall crime rate than transient populations. Neighborhoods with more houses and condominiums (generally signifying a more stable population) have a lower crime rate than neighborhoods with mostly apartments (generally a more transient population).	Historically, more stable population west of Harvard Square; more transient population east of Harvard Square. This is changing rapidly with gentrification taking place in neighborhoods adjacent to Central Square.	Lower comparative crime rate in neighborhoods of West Cambridge, Highlands, Peabody, Agassiz, Strawberry Hill. Higher comparative crime rate in Mid-Cambridge, Area 4, Cambridgeport. This, however, is changing with the stabilization and gentrification of housing in these areas.



<b>Street Layout</b>	Areas with major streets offering fast getaways and mass transportation show more crime clusters than neighborhoods with primarily residential streets.	A mix of major and minor streets	Higher auto theft rates in MIT, East Cambridge, Cambridgeport, where thieves can make a quick jump over the bridge to Boston. Higher commercial burglary rate in North Cambridge, with multiple avenues of escape into nearby towns
<b>Proximity to Public Transportation</b>	Criminals are often indigent and cannot afford cars or other expensive forms of transportation. Areas near public transportation, and particularly subways, witness a higher crime rate—particularly robbery and larceny—than more inaccessible areas	Major public transportation system offering high-speed rapid transit throughout most of the city	Contributes to clusters of crime around Central Square, Harvard Square, Porter Square, and Alewife, though not much around Lechmere and Kendall Square. Neighborhoods distant from rapid transit—West Cambridge, Highlands, and Strawberry Hill—show lower crime rate with few clusters.
<b>Economic conditions, including poverty level and unemployment rate</b>	Again, criminals are often indigent. Areas afflicted by poverty show higher burglary, robbery, and larceny rates than middle-class or wealthy neighborhoods.	Little abject poverty in Cambridge. This factor probably contributes little to the picture of crime in Cambridge.	Possibly some effect on Area 4—the neighborhood with the lowest mean income—though Strawberry Hill, which has the second lowest mean income, also has one of the lowest crime rates in the city. Other factors on this list probably have a much greater role than economic conditions.
<b>Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness</b>	Larry J. Siegel, author of <i>Criminology</i> , says: “Family relationships have for some time been considered a major determinant of behavior. Youths who grow up in a household characterized by conflict and tension, where parents are absent or separated, or where there is a lack of familial love and support, will be susceptible to the crime-promoting forces in the environment.”	According to census data, about one third of the families in Cambridge with children are single-parent families. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole, this percentage is slightly less—about one quarter.	The neighborhoods with the highest percentage of single-parent families are Area 4, Cambridgeport, Riverside, and North Cambridge. With the exception of Riverside, these neighborhoods also have a higher than mean crime rate. However, there are a far greater number of factors influencing “conflict and tension” and “familial love and support” than just the number of parents in the household. In the end, no conclusions can be drawn without more data.
<b>Climate</b>	Warmer climates and seasons tend to report a higher rate of larceny, auto theft, and juvenile-related crime, while cold seasons and climates report more robberies and murder.	A varied climate; warm and moist summers, cool autums, long cold winters	High overall larceny, auto theft rate in the summer Higher overall robbery rate in the winter Burglary rate less tied to climate than to specific weather conditions; rain and snow produce fewer burglaries
<b>Operational and investigative emphasis of the police department</b>	Problem-oriented, informed police departments have more success controlling certain aspects of crime than other departments.	A problem-oriented department with an emphasis on directed patrol and investigation, and on crime analysis, including quick identification of crime patterns and rapid intervention to curtail them	Lower overall crime rate across the city than would be expected for a city of our size and characteristics
<b>Attitude of the citizenry toward crime, including its reporting practices</b>	Populations that have “given up” on crime and the police experience an exacerbation of the crime problem	A population that works closely with the police, creates numerous neighborhood crime watches, and is likely to report crimes	Lower overall crime rate across the city than would be expected for a city of our size and characteristics

